

LETTER
TO THE
EARLE
OF
PEMBROKE:

Concerning the Times, and the sad
Condition both of Prince and
People.

The Land mourneth because of Oathes.

Printed in the Yeare, 1648.

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The Earl of Pembroke

Printed in the Year 1648.

To the Right Honourable, PHILIP
 Earle of Pembroke, and Mountgomery, Knight
 of the most Noble Order of the Garter,
 and one of His Majesties most Honour-
 able Privy Counsell, &c.

My Lord,

THIS Letter requires no Apology, much lesse any par-
 don, but may expect rather a good reception, and
 thanks, when your Lordship hath seriously perused the
 contents, and ruminated well upon the matter it treats of,
 with your second and third thoughts, which usually carry
 with them a greater advantage of wisdom: It concerns
 not your body, or temporall estate, but things reflecting
 upon the noblest part of you, your Soule, which being a
 beame of Immortality, and a type of the Almighty, is in-
 comparably more precious, and rendreth all other earthly
 things to be but bables and transitory trifles. Now, the
 strongest tye, the solemnest engagement and stipulation that
 can be betwixt the Soule and her Creator, is an Oath.
 I doe not understand common tumultuary rash oaths, pro-
 ceeding from an ill habit, or heat of passion upon sudden
 contingencies, for such oaths bind one to nought else but to
 repentance: No, I mean serious and legall oaths, taken with a
 calm prepared spirit, either for the assering of truth, and
 conviction of falshood, or for fidelity in the execution of
 some Office, or binding to civill Obedience and Loyaltie,
 which is one of the essenriall Parts of a Christian. Such
 publick oaths legally made with the Royall assent of the So-

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veraigne floss whom they receive both legalitie and life, else they are invalid and unwarrantable; as they are religious acts in their own nature, so is the taking and observance of them part of Gods honor, & there can be nothing more derogatory to the high Majesty and holinesse of his name, nothing more dangerous, destructive, & damnable to humane souls, then the infringing and eluding of them, or omission in the performance of them. Which makes the *Turks*, of whom Christians in this particullar may learn a tender peece of humanity, to be so cautious, that they seldome or never administer an oath to Greek, Jew, or any other Nations; and the reason is, That if that Party sworn doth take that Oath upon hopes of some advantage, or for evading of danger or punishment, and afterwards rescinds it, they think themselves to be involved in the Perjury, and accessory to his damnation: Our Civill Law hath a Canon consonant to this, which is, *Mortale peccatum est et prestare juramentum, quod scio verisimiliter violaturum;* *It is a mortall sin to administer an Oath to him who I probably know will break it;* To this may allude another wholesome saying, *A false Oath is damnable, a true Oath dangerous, none at all the safest.* How much then have they to answer for, who of late years have fram'd such formidable coercive generall oaths, to serve them for engines of State, to lay battery to the Consciences and Soules of poor men, and those without the assent of the Sovereign, and opposite point blank to former Oaths they themselves had taken: these kind of Oaths the City hath swallowed lately in grosse, and the Countrey in detaile, which makes me confidently beleieve, that if ever that saying of the holy Prophet, *The Land mourns for Oaths*, was applyable to any part of the habitable earth, it may be now applied to this desperateland.

But now I come to the maine of my purpose, and to those Oaths your Lordship hath taken, before this distra-

sted time, which, the world knowes, and your Conscience can testifie, were divers: They were all of them Solemn, and some of them Sacramentall Oaths (and indeed, every Solemn Oath among the Ancients was held a Sacrament: *3*) They all implied, and imposed an indispenfible fidelity, Truth and loyalty from you to your Sovereigne Prince, your Liege Lord and Master the King: I will make some instances: Your Lordship took an oath when Knight of the Bath, To love your Sovereigne above all earthly Creatures, and for His Right and Dignity to live and dye:

By the oath of Supremacy you swear to beare faith and true allegiance to the Kings Highnesse, and to your power to defend all Jurisdictions, Priviledges, Preheminences, and Authorities belonging to His Highnesse.

Your Lordship took an oath when Privie Counsellor, to be a true and faithfull Servant unto Him, and if you knew or understood of any manner of thing to be attempted, done, or spoken against His Majesties Person, Honour, Crown, or Dignity, you swear to let, and withstand the same, to the uttermost of your power, and either cause it to be revealed to Himselfe, or to others of His Privy Counsell: The oaths you took when Bedchamber man, and L. Chamberlain bind you as strictly to His Person.

Your Lordship may also call to memory when you were installed Knight of the Garter, (whereof you are now the oldest living, except a K. of Denmark) you solemnly swore to defend the Honour, and Quarrells, the Rights and Lordship of your Sovereigne: Now the Record tells us that the chiefeest ground of instituting that Order by that heroicke Prince Edward the Third, was, That he might have choice gallant men, who by Oath and Honour should adhere unto him in all dangers, and difficulcies, and that by way of reciproca- tion, he should protect and defend them: Which made Alfonso Duke of Calabria, so much importune Henry the
Eight

might install him one of the Knights of the Garter, that he might engage King *Harry* to protect him against *Charles* the eighth, who threatened then the conquest of *Naples*.

How your *Lordship* hath acquitted your selfe of the performance of these Oaths, your Conscience (that bosome record) can make the best affidavit; Some of them oblige you to live and dye with King *Charles*, but what Oaths or any thing like an Oath binds you to live and dye with the House of *Commons*, as your *Lordship* often gives our you will, I am yet to learne: Unlessse that House which hath not power as much as to administer an Oath, (much lesse to make one) can *absolve* you from your former Oaths, or haply by their omnipotence *dispen*ce with you for the observance of them. Touching the *Politieall* capacity of the Kings, I feare that will be a weak plea for your *Lordship* before the Tribunal of Heaven, and they who whisper such Chimeras into your eares abuse you in grosse; but pur case there were such a thing as *politieall* capacity distinct from the personall, which to a true rationall man is one of the grossest Bools that can be, yet these formentioned Oaths relate most of them meerly unto the *Kings Person*, the individuall Person of King *Charles*, as you are His domestick Counsellor, and cubicular Servant.

My Lord, I take leave to tell your *Lordship* (and the Spectator sees sometimes more then the Gamester, that the world extreemly marvels at you, more then others, and it makes those who wish you best to be transformed to wonder, That your *Lordship* should be the first of your Race who deserted the *Crowne*, which one of your Progenitors said, he would still follow, though it were thrown upon a hedge: Had your Princely Brother been living, he would have been sooner torne by wild horses, than have binded against it, or abandoned the King his Master, and fallen to such

such grosse Idolatry as to worship the *Beast with many bandes*. The world also stands astonish'd; that you should confederate to bring into the bowels of the land, and make Elogiums of that hungry people which have been from all times so crosse and fatall to the English Nation; and particularly to your *own* honour: Many thousands doe wonder that your *Lordship* should be brought to persecute with so much animosity and hatred, that reverend *Order* in Gods Church which is contemporary with Christianity it selfe; and whereunto you had once designed, and devored one of your dearest Sonnes so solemnly.

My Lord, if this Monster of Reformation (which is like an infernall Spirit, clad in white; and hath a cloven head as well as feet) prevails, you shall find the same destiny will attend poore *England*, as did *Bohemia* which was one of the Flourishingst Kingdoms upon this part of the earth; The Common People there, repin'd at the Hierarchy and riches of the Church, thereupon a Parliament was pack'd, where Bishop were demolished; What followed? The Nobles and Gentry went down next, and afterwards the Crown it selfe; and so it became a popular confus'd Anarchicall State, and a Srage of bloud a long time; so that at last, when this *Maggot* had done working in the braines of the foolish people, they were glad to have recourse to Monarchy againe, after a world of calamities; though it degenerated from a successive Kingdome to an Elective. Me thinks, my Lord, under favour, that those notorious visible judgements which have fallen upon these Refiners of reform'd Religion should unbeguile your *Lordship*, and open your eyes: For the hand of heaven never appeared so clearly in any humane actions: Your *Lordship* may well remember what became of the *Hotbams*, and Sir *Alexander Cary*, who were the two fatall wretches that began the War first, one in the *North*, the other

other in the South; Your Lordship may be also pleased to remember what became of *Brooks* the Lord, and *Hambden*; the first whereof was dispatched by a deaf and dumb man out of an ancient Church which he was battering, and that suddenly also, for he fell stone dead in the twinkling of an eye; Now, one of the greatest cavils he had against our *Lybargie* was a clause of a Prayer there against sudden Death, besides the fagge end of his Grace in that journey was, that if the design was not pleasing to God, he might perish in the action: For the other wiseaker, he be sprinkled with his blood, and received his death upon the same clod of earth in *Buckinghamshire*, where he had first assembled the poore Country people like so many Geese to drive them gagling in a mutiny to *London*, with the Protestation in their Caps, which hath been since torn in Flinters, and is now grown obsole and quite out of use. Touching *Pym* and *Stroud*, those two worthy Champions of the *Utopian* cause, the first being opened, his stomach and guts were found to be full of pellets of blood; the other had little or no brain at all left in his skul being dead, &c lesse when he was living: For *Hollis* who carried the first scandalous Remonstrance (that work of night, & the verdict of a sterv'd jury) to welcome the King from *Scotland* and was the first of the five Members who were impeached by his Majesty; he hath been since, your Lordship knowes, the chiefe of the *Eleven* Members Impeached by themselves, but with this difference, That they had justice against him, though the King could get none: But now that *St. Hollis* with the rest are a kind of Runnagates beyond the Seas, scorn'd by all mankind, and baffled every where, yea, even by the Boors of *Holland*, and not daring to peep in any populous Town but by owle-light.

Moreover, I beleeve your Lordship hath good cause to remember, that the same kind of riotous Rascals which rabled
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the King out of Town, did drive away the Speaker in like manner with many of their Members, amongst whom your Lordship was fairly on his way, to seek shelter of their Janizaries : Your Lordship must needs find what deadly feuds fall dayly 'twixt the Presbyterian and Independent, the two serry brands that have put this poore Isle so long in combustion. But 'tis worthy your Lordships speciall notice, how your dear Brethren the Scots (whom your Lordship so highly magnified in some of your publike Speeches) who were at first brought in for Hirelings against the King for them, offer themselves now to come in against them for the King ; Your Lordship cannot be ignorant of the sundry clashes that have been 'twixt the City and their Memberships, and 'twixt their Memberships and their men of war, who have often way'd and disobeyed their commands : How this ratterdemallian Army hath reduc'd this crow'd City, the cheated Country, and their once all-commanding Masters to a perfect passe of slavery, to a true asinin condition ; They crow over all the ancient Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdome, though there be not found amongst them all but two *Knights* ; and 'tis well knowne there be hundred of private Gentlemen in the Kingdome, the poorest of whom, is able to buy this whole Host, with the Generall himselfe, and all the Commanders : But 'tis not the first time, that the Kings and Nobility of England have been baffled by petty companions : I have read of Jack Straw, Wat Tyler and Ket the Tanner, with divers others that did so, but being suppressed, it tended to the advantage of the King at last ; and what a world of examples are there in our story, that those Noblemen who banded against the Crown, the revenge of heaven ever found them out early or late, at last.

These, with a black cloud of reciprocall Judgements
 B more

more, which have come home to these Reformers very deere, shew, that the hand of Divine Justice is in it; and the holy Prophet tells us, when Gods judgements are upon Earth, then the inhabitants should learn Justice.

Touching your Lordship in particular, you have not, unless favour, escap'd without some already, and I wish more may not follow; your Lordship may remember you lost one Son at Bridgenorth, your deere Daughter at Oxford, your Son-in-Law at Newbury, your Daughter-in-law at the Charter-house of an infamous disease, how sickly your eldest Son hath been; how part of your House was burnt in the country, with others, which I will not now mention.

I will conclude this point with an observation of the most monstrous number of Witches that have swarmed since these Wars, against the King, more (I dare say) then have been in this Island since the Devill tempted Eve; for in two Counties only, there hath been neer upon three hundred arraign'd, and eightscore executed; what a barbarous devilish office one had, under colour of examination, to torment poore silly Women with watchings, pinchings, and other artifices to find them for Witches: How others by a new invention of villany were connived at for seizing upon young children, and hurrying them on ship-board, where they were so transform'd, that their Parents could not know them, and so were carried over for new schismaticall Plantations. My Lord, there is no villany that can enter into the imagination of man, hath been lefr here uncommitted; no Crime, from the highest Treason, to the meanest Trespasse, but these Reformers are guilty of. What horred acts of prophaneesse have been perpetrated up and down! The Monuments of the dead have been rifled; Horses have been warred at the Church Font, and sed upon the holy Table! Widowers, Orphanes, and Hospiralls, have

have been commonly robbed, and Gods House hath been plundred more then any. With what insidious blasphemies hath the Pulpits rung, one crying out, That this Parliament was as necessary for our Reformation, as the coming of Christ was for our Redemption: Another belching out, that if God Almighty did not prosper this Cause, were sitting he should change places with the Devil: Another, that the worst things our Saviour did, was the making of the Dominical Prayer, and saving the Thief upon the Crosse. O Immortal God, is it possible that England should produce such Monsters, or rather such infernall fiends shap'd with humane bodies! yet your Lordship sides with these men, though they be enemies to the Crosse, to the Church, and to the very name of Jesus Christ; I'll instance onely in two; who were esteem'd the Oracles of this holy Reformation, *Peters* and *Saturnus*; The first is known by thousands to be an infamous, juggling, and scandalous villain, among other feats, he got the Mother and Daughter with Child, as it was offered to be publikely proved: I could speake much of the other, but being dead, let it suffice that he dyed mad and desperate. These were accounted the two Apostles of the Times.

My Lord, 'tis high time for you to recollect your selfe, to enter into the private closet of your thoughts, and summon them all to counsel upon your pillow; consider well the slavish condition your dear Countrey is in, weigh well the sad case your liege Lord and Master is in, how He is bereav'd of His Queen, His Children, His Servants, His Liberty, and of every thing in which there is any comfort; observe well, how nevertheless, God Almighty works in Him, by inspiring Him with equality and calmnesse of mind, with patience, prudence, and constancy; how He makes His very crosses to stoop unto Him, when His Sub-

jects will not: Consider the monstrousnesse of the Propositions that are tendered *Him*, wherein no lesse then *Crown, Scepter, and Sword*, which are things inalienable from Majesty, are in effect demanded: nay, they would not onely have *Him* transmit, and resign *His* very intellectualls unto them; but they would have *Him* make a sacrifice of *His* Soule, by forcing *Him* to violate that solemn Sacramentall Oath *He* took at *His* Coronation, when *He* was no *Minor*, but come to a full maturity of reason and judgement: make it your own ease, my Lord, and that's the best way to Judge of *His*: Think upon the multiplicities of solemn astringing Oaths your Lordship hath taken, most whereof directly and solely enjoyn Faith and Loyalty to *His* Person: Oh my Lord I wrong not your Soule so much, in comparison of whom your body is but a ragge of rottennesse.

Consider that acts of Loyaltie to the Crown, are the fairest columns to beare up a Noblemans name to future ages, and register it in the temple of immortality. Reconcile your self therefore speedily unto your liege Lord and Master, think upon the infinite private obligations you have had both to *Sire and Son*: The Father kist d you often, kisse you now the *Sun* lest *He* be too angry; *And King*, you will find, my Lord, are like the *Sun* in the *Heavens*, which may be clouded for a time, yet is he still in his *Spheare*, and will break out again, and shine as gloriously as ever; Let me tell your Lordship, that the people begin to grow extream weary of their Physicians, they find the remedy to be far worse then their former disease: nay, they stick not to call some of them meer Quacksalvers, rather then Physicians: Some go further, and say, they are no more Parliament, then a *Pye-powder Court* at *Bartholomew-faire*, there being all the essentiall parts of a true Parliament wanting in this, as faintnesse of elections, freedome of Speech, fulnesse of *Attendance*,

nor have they any Head at all ; Besides, they have broken all the fundamentall Rules and priviledges of Parliament, and dishonoured that high Court more then any thing else: They have ravish'd *Magna Charta*, which they are sworne to maintain, taken away our birth-right, and transgressed all the Laws of heaven and earth : Lastly, they have most perjuriously betrayed the trust the King reposed in them, the trust their Countrey reposed in them ; so that if reason and Law were now in date, by the breach of their Priviledges, and by betraying the double trust that is put in them; they have dissolved themselves *in facto*, I cannot tell how many thousand times, notwithstanding that monstrous grant of the Kings, that satall *Act of continuance* ; And truly, my Lord, I am not to this day satisfied of the legality (though I am satisfied of the forciblenesse) of that *Act*, whether it was in *His Majesties* power to passe it or no ; for the Law ever presupposeth these Clauses in all Concessions of Grace, in all Patents, Charters, and Grants whatsoever the King passeth, *Salvo jure Regio, salvo jure Coronæ*.

To conclude, as I presume to give your Lordship these humble cautions, and advice in particular, so I offer it to all other of your rank, office, and orders, who have souls to save, and who by solemne indispenfable Oaths have ingaged them to be true and loyall to the Person of King Charles. Touching His political capacity, which fancy hath been exploded in other Parliaments (except in that mad infamous Parliament, where it was first hatched) and Acts passed that it should be high and horrible Treason to separate or distinguish the Person of the King, from His Power ; I believe, as I said before, this will not serve their turne at the dreadfull Bar of Divine Justice in the other world : Indeed that Rule of the Pagans makes for them, *Si Jursurandum violandum*

*est, tyrannidis causa vitandam est. If an Oath be any way
frangible, it is frangible for a Kingdom: We find by mo-
st experience, that according to this maxime, they have
made themselves all kings, by violation of so many Oaths;
They have monopolized the whole power and wealth of
the Kingdom into their own hands; they cut, shuffle, deal,
and turn up what trump they please, being Judges and Par-
ties in every thing.*

*My Lord, He who presents these humble advertisements
to your Lordship, is one who is inclin'd to the Parliament of
England in as high a degree of affection as possibly a free-
born Subject can be; One besides, who wisheth your Lord-
ships good, with the preservation of your safety and honour,
more really, then he whom you intrust with your secretest
affairs, or the white Jew of the upper house who hath infused
such pernicious principles into you; moreover, one who
hath some drops of blood running in his veins, which may
claime kindred with your Lordship: And lastly, he is One,
who would kisse your feet, in lieu of your hands, if your
Lordship would be so sensible of the most desperate case of
your poor Country, as to employ the interests, the opinion
and power you have, to restore the King your Master by
English wayes, rather then a hungry forrain people, who
are like to bring nothing but destruction in the Van, confu-
sion in the Reare, and rapine in the Middle, should have the
honour of so glorious a work,*

My Lord,

*So, humbly hoping your Lordship will not take with the
left hand, what I offer with the right, I rest,*

Your most truly devoted Servant,

FINIS.

